

Documents Control Branch

3 January 1950

Foreign Documents Division

December-Monthly Report

1. Implementation of Recently Proposed Plans

a. Albanian Publications

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However, when the Publication Procurement Officer in [redacted] forwarded to Washington scattered issues of Albanian newspapers, instructions were immediately sent to the field requesting the source of these newspapers and the possibility of placing subscriptions for them [redacted]. Maximum effort will be made to exploit this source.

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In December, microfilms of various issues of the newspapers Bashkimi and Zeri i Popullit for October and November 1949 were received by the Foreign Documents Division. Further shipments of Albanian newspapers received by the Department of State will be forwarded to the Foreign Documents Division for exploitation.

2. Accomplishments

a. Procurement of Foreign Language Publications Through Special Sources

(1) One large shipment was received from [redacted] in December. This shipment consisted of (a) 28 USSR periodicals and six books (b) 70 German periodicals and eight books.

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(2) There were six shipments received from [redacted] during the month. Contained in these shipments were 82 USSR periodicals covering approximately 40 titles and 14 USSR newspapers covering approximately 10 titles.

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b. Chinese Communist Documents from Manchuria

25X1C An initial shipment of fifty-two Chinese Communist periodicals [] was loaned to the Foreign Documents Division by the Library of Congress for exploitation. This is the result of a special arrangement made by the Foreign Documents Division with [] whereby the Division will receive for exploitation all material from this area even though it is earmarked for other governmental agencies.

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c. "Maulwurf" Documents

Three documents purporting to show the location of German wartime loot buried at a certain location in Europe were discovered by a member of this Branch in the German Military Documents Section, AGO. These documents accompanied by a summary and analysis of their contents were forwarded through channels to the Office of the Director as requested.

d. Assessment of Foreign Language Documents for Office of Special Operations

Upon the request of the Office of Special Operations a member of this Branch evaluated a group of covert foreign language documents. This evaluation will be the basis of a future CD from QSO to this Division.

e. Foreign Language Documents Pertaining to Mongolia

The Division for Research Far East/China, State Department is at present writing its chapters on Mongolia for the National Intelligence Survey. This Branch was requested by DRF/China to aid it in surveying the foreign language material available on this area. In compliance with this request a

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data compiled in this survey was forwarded to the Department of State.

f. Smolensk Communist Party Documents

The German Military Documents Section, AGO at present holds a collection consisting of approximately 400 documents which formerly were the records of the Smolensk Communist Party. A memorandum describing this collection was prepared and forwarded []

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g. Hungarian Publications

A special survey was made during the month at the request of the Office of Policy Coordination to ascertain those Hungarian periodicals and newspapers most general in information content and with the largest circulations.

h. Collection and Collation of Source Data

(1) New accessions to the card file for each publication exploited by the Division was continued during the month. It is planned that entries will be made for the publications exploited by the Eastern European and Far East Branches in the near future.

25X1A (2) Numerous additional accessions were made to the file of [redacted] on publications in the Satellite areas in cooperation with the Eastern European Branch.

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(4) A special survey was conducted on the Iranian press to gather bibliographic data on its publications as there is at present no complete compilation or press guide for this country. As a result of this and a previous survey, it is estimated that this Branch now holds information on better than [redacted] of the Iranian publications.

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i. Overseas Briefing

For some time it has been a Branch policy to brief members of the IAC agencies who are going overseas on specific and general matters of Division interest when the opportunity is offered. In keeping with this policy two members of the IAC were briefed this month. The first was the new State Department Publications Procurement Officer for India, Ceylon and Burma, Mr. Leroy Makepeace, and the second, Captain L. J. Fremstad of the Army Engineer Research Division.

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Plans have been made to draw up such a listing in keeping with the capabilities of this Branch and security requirements.

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k. [] Library of Congress

Three more listings covering Yugoslavian, Rumanian and Hungarian periodicals considered of value were passed to the contact []

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Informal arrangements covering the Eastern European Branch were expanded this month to include the Near East Division. To aid [] in the location of sources with which it might begin exchange negotiations, a list of approximately 110 libraries located in the Near East was compiled for it from the Branch files. Information contained in this list includes the name of the repository, location, size of holdings, librarian and other pertinent information.

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1. Office of Scientific Intelligence Requests

This Branch, at the request of the Office of Scientific Intelligence, provided one of its members conducting a research project with study facilities at the Library of Congress and a bibliography of foreign language material pertaining to the project.

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The Office of Scientific Intelligence requested this Branch to make a survey in an effort to locate as much material as possible on the []. In a preliminary survey this Branch located one book which was devoted exclusively to []. This information was passed on to the requestor.

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m. Project [] 25X1A

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Project [] which requested documents concerning German troop quarters, training areas and supply depots was received. Sixteen pertinent German language documents have been obtained in initial action on this request.

n. CD 8047.1

A listing of bibliographic information of 18 additional technical and scientific periodicals was forwarded in further answer to CD 8047.1.

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3. Proposals for Improvement

a. Publications from Overseas Chinese Communities

The serious prospect of a Communist-dominated China brings into sharp focus the role which overseas Chinese communities can be expected to play in the future. There are more than nine million overseas Chinese, and they comprise a prosperous and influential group in many areas. The political leanings and loyalties of these groups are not quite clear.

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b. Coordination with the Federal Bureau of Investigation

Inasmuch as the internal security matters within the continental limits of the United States are the responsibility of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, it may reasonably be assumed that this agency conducts some exploitation of the domestic foreign language press.

The Foreign Documents Division has a definite interest in these publications, and it is proposed that arrangements be made to obtain all translations of interest on a continuous basis if such exploitation is conducted.

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